Newspapers by ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/465651072

Daily News (New York, New York) · Sun, Dec 3, 1972 · Page 105

Downloaded on Mar 26, 2024

Rock Shopping For Books At Christmas

By LILLIAN ROXON

CHRISTMAS is nearly here, so I'm going to do you a big favor and run a list of some of the more interesting rock books available in plenty of time for you to track them down. The list is not definitive. There are many others, but you'll find it useful for your own gift giving and to leave lying around casually, marked appropriately, to help others buy gifts for you.

First of all, and I know from your letters many of you have it already, there is a wonderful study of the music of the late '60s called "Rock Encyclopedia" (Grosset's Universal Library $3.95). The fact that I wrote it (and lived it) shouldn't turn you off. The only advantage of the $9.95 hardcover edition is that it has a whole picture section, including a hopelessly outdated, terribly flattering picture of me by Linda Eastman (now Mrs. Paul McCartney). Only hold out for that if someone else is paying.

A must for everyone is "Rolling Stones: An Unauthorized Biography in Words, Photographs and Music" (Amseo Music Publishing $6.95).

Little known but well worth tracking down (and good to give to poetry loving adults), "Grandfather Rock" by David Morse (Delacorte Press $4.95). It compares Bob Dylan and Shelley, Leonard Cohen and Yeats, and is full of the new poetry (rock lyrics) and the old.

For folk fans. "Folk Music in America" by Brian Van-der Horst (Franklin Watts). Complete with pictures.

For gospel fans. "The Gosnel Sound" by Tony Heilbut (Simon and Schuster $7.95).

To give swinging adults you love dearly. "Simon Says: The Sight and Sounds of the Swing Era 1935-1955" (Arlington House $19.95 and worth every penny), and "The Big Bands" (MacMillan $10), both written by George Simon, Carly's uncle. Remember, this is their music.

For people who are into really great rock criticism, "It's Too Late to Stop Now" (Straight Arrow Books $3.95) by great rock critic, Jon Landau.

Dylan fans can choose between Tony Scaduto's biography (Grosset and Dunlap $7.95), Tony Thompson's "Positively Main Street" (Coward McCann $5.95, but also now in inexpensive paperback), and Craig McGregor's anthology of articles about Dylan dating back to 1961 called "Bob Dylan: A Retrospective" (Morrow Paperback $2.95) *All* three are well worth having.

I again recommend "Body Count" by Francie Schwartz (Straight Arrow $3) as a study of a '60s woman in a lot of pain as well as an incredibly intimate view of Paul McCartney as lover and genius.

If you have a bizarre and hilarious sense of humor and your favorite fanzine is the outrageous Teenage Wasteland Gazette, you'll want to track down two books by rock humorist R. Meltzer, "The Aesthetics of Rock" (Something Else Press $3.95) and "Gulcher" (Straight Arrow Books $3). They grow on you.

For people who actually play music, "Electric Rock: The Rock Musician's Guide to Electric Guitars and Amplifiers" by Richard Robinson (Tyramid 95 cents). Richard's "Pop Rock and Soul" (Pyramid 75 cents) carries a long list of almost all the rock books ever written.

Osmond fans will love Richard's latest, "The Osmond Brothers and the New Pop Scene" (Pyramid 95 cents).

Beatle fans have the choice of "Apple to the Core" by McCabe and Schonfeld (Pocket Books $1.25) or Richard DiLello's "The Longest Cocktail Party" (Playboy Books $3.95), depending on who's paying.

And there are so many more. You don't have to be an Elvis fan to love Jerry Hopkins' "Elvis." You can relive all the '60s with "Goldstein's Greatest Hits" (by Richard Goldstein) and Ralph Gleason's nostalgic book on the Jefferson Airplane.

I love slightly trashy rock novels like Mike Jahn's "The Scene" (about a thinly disguised Jimi Hendrix), Henry Edwards' "Harlan Smythe Grossfeld" (the girl in it is Janis), "Groupie" by Jenny Fabian, all about Family and Pink Floyd, also disguised, of course.

If there's a book you like that we haven't mentioned here, write to me in time for Christmas, and I'll try to give it a mention.

AMPLIFICATIONS: Talk about kiss and tell! An infamous groupie has written all about her brief encounter with a certain famous star—all over the walls of Max's Kansas City restaurant ladies' room. . . . Geri Miller, who jumps out of rock stars' birthday cakes and dances topless at the Peppermint Lounge, swears David Cassidy dropped by the week before last—with his chauffeur. . . . Write and tell me what you think of Don Kirshner's late night TV concerts. . . . I keep forgetting to tell you how good Steeleye Span was on the Procol Harum bill and how Procol's "Grand Hotel" is so romantic people start kissing when they hear it. . . .

If you-know-who didn't want anyone to know about his mini-romance with that leggy American girl singer, how come they holed up in London's marvelous Portobello Hotel where all the rock folk stay and where people kept running into them in the tiny lobby? . . . Did you see the very masculine young guys in black leather jackets and black lipstick at the Kinks' concert? Is this a trend? . . . The current issue of Spec magazine has a foldout of Rick Springfield which makes him the Burt Reynolds of rock. No kidding. . . . The current issue of Hit Parader has a picture of the Osmonds 10 years ago (two feet high, short hair and no Donny). . . . December After Dark has great Lee Childers pictures of Mick and beautiful Ruby of Ruby and the Rednecks.

For Christmas, there are books on the Beatles [▲] and books on Bob Dylan [▼], not to mention literally dozens of others for the rock fan.

RECORD REVIEW

By DOUGLAS WATT

New 'Horizon'

The state of songwriting, not to mention pop singing, being what it is today, there seems to be little eagerness on the parts of bands, vocalists or record firms to rush out recordings of the goodies from new Broadway or movie scores. We still get original-cast albums and soundtrack ones, to be sure, but gone is the gleeful competition of yesterday to pick over the latest efforts of a Porter or a Rodgers with the hope of coming up with a winning single. In fact, the last striking example of this sort I can remember was Vic Damone's "On the Street Where You Live," from "My Fair Lady."

But the songwriting team of Burt Bacharach and Hal David has a special cachet, its carefully-structured work reflecting an accommodation between the old and new, and so it isn't surprising that the pair's latest collection of songs, written for the musical film "Lost Horizon," should be exciting extra interest in the trade. One entire side of Ed Ames' newest RCA LP is given over to five selections from the movie with the other side taken up by mostly soppy themes from "The Godfather," "Love Story," "Garden of the Finzi-Continis" and such.

Unfortunately, the five "Lost Horizon" songs, though not without their individual attractions, sound as if they had been composed for "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" or some other bit of whimsy as they vary from kiddie numbers such as "Question Me an Answer" and "The World Is a Circle" (the Jimmy Joyce Children Chorus joins in both) to pious reflections on the order of the title piece, "Loving Together, Growing Together," and, indeed, a number called "Reflections."

Ames does a workmanlike job, though he doesn't sound terribly interested in the material, and he is assisted by, in addition to that kiddies' chorus, orchestras under the direction of Perry Botkin Jr. and Bill Reddie.

Kris Kristofferson will take time out from filming "Pat Garrett & Billy the Kid" in Durango, Mexico, to fly here Sunday for a Philharmonic Hall concert. . . . A new recording of Bellini's "Norma," with Montserrat Caballe in the title role, which she will sing for the first time at the Met on Feb. 12, will be released next month by RCA. . . . Priest John O'Reilly's rock musical "Virgin," first recorded by Paramount and now on the stage at the Village East, will be the subject of an hour-long TV special.

BEST SELLERS

Poppa Was a Rolling Stone (Temptations)
I Am Woman (Helen Reddy)
I Can See Clearly Now (Johnny Cash)
I'd Love You to Want Me (Lobo)
If You Don't Know Me By Now (Harold Melvin)
Summer Breeze (Seals & Crofts)

Ed Ames

Copyright © 2024 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.

Powered by Newspapers.com